

PRAYERS

1578/4442.
FOR THE USE OF

PRIVATE PERSONS, FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND SERVANTS.

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One of the great Instruments of Religion is Prayer: We are commanded to ask in Order to receive; and HE must have but little Sense of those good Things, which GOD daily bestows on him, who refuses to give the Tribute of a thankful Heart: HE must have but slight Notions of his own Weakness and Impotency who does not seek Help from above.—Never begin the Day without addressing yourself to the great Creator of Heaven and Earth; and never retire to your Rest without commending yourself to his Protection.

NEELSON'S Practice of true Devotion.

Cast not off Fear, nor restrain Prayer before GOD. JOB xv. 4.

The EIGHTH EDITION.

L O N D O N:

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THE late Bishop of London, (Dr Gibson) and other eminent Divines of our Church, have urged it, as the Duty of every Master of a Family, to furnish his Children and Servants with some *Forms of Prayer*, to be used by them *constantly* every Day; and indeed it is plainly required in *Scripture*, which commands them to "teach God's Word diligently to their Children," Deut. vi. 7. and to "bring them up in the Admonition of the Lord:" Eph. vi. 4. and recommends the Examples of *Abraham, Joshua, Cornelius, and others*, who manifested a religious Care of their Families.

This short *Manual of Prayers*, is therefore published with a View to furnish Heads of Families with such as are proper for the Use of those committed by Providence to their Care. There are *several* for Morning and Evening, lest the *constant* Use of *One only* should insensibly lead the Person, or Family using it, into mere Formality: But this Publication is not intended to exclude *other* Prayers, but to furnish the Purchasers, at a small Expence, with a suitable *Collection* from some of our devotional Writers; to which such *Additions* are made as were necessary to complete the Plan proposed.

It is to be hoped, that *they* who use them will carefully consider what a great, awful, and glorious *Being* they are addressing, and will worship Him with Reverence and Seriousness of Spirit.—*Kneeling* is undoubtedly the most decent, humble, and becoming Posture, and was used by *Solomon, Daniel, St Paul*, and even *Christ* himself: Yet when any, by Sicknes, Weakness, or other *unavoidable* Hindrances, cannot kneel, let them content themselves with any *other* Posture, and pray as they sit, stand, ride, walk, or lie in Bed; remembering, that the *Disposition of the Heart* is the *main Thing* at which the all seeing God looks, and that (as the Psalmist expresses it) "If any regard Iniquity in their Hearts, the Lord will not hear their Prayers." (Psm. lxxvi. 18.) But in Circumstances where *Kneeling* can be complied with, it would be downright Laziness, and great Irreverence not to kneel.

☞ The additional Prayers, &c. mark'd with the Letter S are by Dr Stouhouse.



☞ These PRAYERS are printed in so cheap a Form, purposely to be given away by Parents to their Children, Masters to their Servants, and Ministers to their Parishioners.

IN THE MORNING.

[By the late Bishop of Sodor and Man, Dr WILSON:
See his Treatise intituled, The Knowledge and Practice of Christianity made easy to the meanest Capacities]

Consider, that many are the evil Consequences of going without committing ourselves to God into a World full of Temptations and Dangers, which we can neither foresee nor escape:—Whoever duly considers this, and the Mischiefs which may follow, will never fail to pray to God for his Guidance, Protection, and Blessing, every Morning.

A MORNING PRAYER for a Person in private.

Thanksgiving. BLESSED be the Lord for his Mercies renewed unto me every Morning;—for the *Preservation and Refreshment* of the Night past, and all the Favours I daily receive from Thee, my heavenly Father, and constant Benefactor.

Petitions. 1. Gracious God, continue to me *these*, and all other thy Blessings, so long, and in such a Measure, as shall be most for thy Glory, and my Salvation.

2. Possess my Soul, I beseech Thee, with such a Sense of thy Goodness to me, especially in the Gift of thy Son Jesus Christ, and of my Dependence on Thee, that it may be my Delight, as it is my Interest and Duty, to serve and obey Thee.

3. But that I may serve Thee with a quiet Mind, forgive me all my Sins, I beseech Thee, for thy Son's Sake, and withhold the Judgments of which my Conscience is afraid.

(4)
S.
[For I acknowledge my Sins before Thee with Shame and Sorrow, sensible that they are innumerable, and aggravated by all the Favours and Privileges I have enjoyed.—Oh! pardon, and deliver me from the dreadful Consequences of them.]

4. Keep it ever in the Heart of thy Servant, that it is an evil Thing and bitter, to *forsake and offend the Lord*. And, above all Things, *keep me from wilful and deliberate Sins*, that I may never *grieve thy Holy Spirit*, nor provoke Thee to leave me to myself.

5. Let thy restraining Grace preserve me this Day from the Temptations of the *World, the Flesh, and the Devil*;—that I may fall into no Sin, nor run into any Kind of Danger;—but that all my Doings may be ordered by Thee, that I may do always what is righteous in thy Sight;—and that I may live and act as having Thee, O God, the constant Witness of all my *Thoughts, Designs, Words, and Actions*.

6. May I never render myself, by new Sins, unworthy of thy Guidance and Protection!—Suffer me not to go astray; or bring me back by such Ways, as to Thee shall seem best.

7. May I love Thee with all my Heart, and all Mankind as my Brethren!—And may I ever have this sure *Proof* of thy Love abiding in me, that I study to please Thee, and to keep thy Commandments!—Particularly that I forgive, love, and do Good to my Neighbours, as becomes a Disciple of Jesus Christ!

8. Assist me, by thy Grace, faithfully and diligently to perform all the Duties of my Calling; to be honest in all my Concerns with others; and thankfully to receive, and patiently to bear, whatever thy Providence shall order for me.

9. Preserve me from an *idle and useles* Life; ever remembering—that the *Night of Death* cometh, when no Man can work:—And that *now* is the Time in which to provide for Eternity. And grant, O Lord, that no worldly Pleasure, nor worldly Business, may ever make me *lose the Sight of Death, and the future eternal World*. May thy Spirit lead me by the Thoughts of Death to be truly

and sincerely good;—to mortify all *Pride* and *Vanity*,—*Covetousness*, *Hatred*, *Envy*, and *Malice*;—to be *serious*, *sober*, and *watchful*, while I continue in this State of Trial! And thus may I be prepared for the Joys and Glories of thine heavenly Kingdom, thro' thy Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

On Sunday Morning let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added. S.

[Thou hast been pleased, in thy great Goodness, O Lord, to set apart this first Day of the Week to be a Day of Rest from our Labours, and of public Worship, assist me, therefore, to keep it holy to Thee. May I attend thy Worship with Seriousness, Devotion, and Delight, hear thy Word with Reverence, and improve in Knowledge and Goodness by it. May I never dare to profane thy holy Day by Working, Sports, or Idleness, but give myself to *Meditation* on thy glorious Works, on the Resurrection of thy Son from the Dead, and on all the Privileges and Hopes we thereby enjoy. May I read thy holy Word, and endeavour to do Good to others by my Discourse and Example, and labour to grow *wiser* and *better* by all my religious Advantages. In order to that, may thy *Grace* be sufficient for me, and may my defective Services be accepted through thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord!]

O thou, that hearest Prayer, hear these my imperfect Petitions, humbly presented in thy Son's Name, by whose Gospel I have been instructed, enjoined, and encouraged thus to address Thee, in Behalf of myself, and all my Fellow Creatures.

OUR Father, which art in Heaven;—Hallowed be thy Name.—Thy Kingdom come.—Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven.—Give us this Day our daily Bread.—And forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that trespass against us,—And lead us not into Temptation; but deliver us from Evil.—For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with me

and with *all*, whom it is my *Duty* to remember in my Prayers, this Day, [*or this Night*] and for evermore. *Amen.*

At the Conclusion of our Devotions it can never be improper to add these important Words of the Apostle, which contain a Summary of all the inestimable Blessings, which have been implored, and of all which constitute the Happiness of a Christian.

IN THE EVENING.

[By the same BISHOP.]

Every thoughtful Christian will take Care to make his Peace with God, before he goes to sleep; and put himself under God's Protection every Evening, that he may be safe from Fear of Evil.

AN EVENING PRAYER for a Person in private.

Thanksgiving. | MOST gracious and merciful God, I give Thee Thanks, that it hath pleased Thee to add another Day to the Years of my Life; and that none of thy Judgments, to which for my Sins I am justly liable, have fallen upon me.

Accept, O Lord, of my unfeigned Thanks, for this thy constant Care over me:—for delivering me from the Dangers of an evil World, and for the many undeserved Blessings bestowed on me, Day after Day.

S.

Confession. | [I confess before Thee with unfeigned Humiliation my shameful Ingratitude for these Blessings, and acknowledge the *many* Sins, which I have committed, by which I have offended thy Majesty, and wronged my own Soul. Adored be thy Patience and Goodness, that they have not prevented Thee from bringing me safe to the Evening of this Day.]

Petitions. | 1. O God, infinite in Mercy, *pardon* my Sins of the Day past, whether in Thought, Word, or Deed, which I have committed through my own Negligence,

ligence, Weakness, and Frailty; and grant that they may never rise up in Judgment against me.

2. Give me *true* Repentance towards Thee, and a *lively* Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, that I may have a cheerful Confidence in the Continuance of thy Favour.

3. Make me truly sensible of the Weakness and Corruption of my Nature; and the Need I have of thy gracious Help, that I may pray for it continually, and improve it faithfully.

4. May I ever make a right Use of the *Time* which thy Goodness shall yet vouchsafe me, and never dare to abuse thy Patience and Long-suffering.

5. Make me ever sensible of my *latter End*, that Death may not overtake me unprepared;—And in the Hour of Death, and in the Day of Judgment, good Lord, deliver me.

For Rest and Protection. | O God all-powerful, take me this Night under thy Protection:—Preserve me from the Dangers of it: Let my fatigued Nature be refreshed with easy and quiet Sleep:—And, by thy Grace and Providence, bring me at last through all the Trials and Temptations of this World to a blessed End;—that I may *die* in Peace, and *rest* in Hope, and *rise* in Glory, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

On Sunday Evening let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added. S.

[I thank Thee, O Lord, that I have enjoyed the Advantages of another Sabbath: May I be deeply sensible how important and valuable they are. Forgive, merciful God, my many Failings and Imperfections, and that I have not better improved my Privileges, as a Christian, and as a Protestant. Be pleased to impress on my Heart what I have been hearing and reading this Day. May I carry the serious Remembrance of it through the whole Week, and shew, by a good and exemplary Behaviour, what happy Effect the religious Services of the Day have had upon me. May I be a Doer of the Word, that I may be blessed, and all my Attempts to serve and glorify thee be accepted through Jesus Christ!]

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c. See
Page 5. A 4. I N.

IN THE MORNING.

[By the late Bishop of Sodor and Man, Dr WILSON.]

As for me, and my House, said the brave Joshua, we will serve the Lord. (*Josh. xxxiv. 15.*)—This ought to be the sincere Resolution and constant Practice of every christian Master of a Family.—Without Family Prayer none can reasonably expect to have dutiful Children, or faithful Servants, nor justly hope to have God's Blessing in this World, or in the World to come.

MORNING PRAYER for a Family.

Let one of the Family read slowly what follows, the rest seriously attending.

As the Lord hath brought us safe to the Beginning of this Day, let us give him Thanks for this, and for all his Mercies: Let us pray that we may live in the Fear of Him, and continue in Love and Charity with all Mankind; that his holy Spirit may direct and rule our Hearts, teaching us what to do, and what to avoid; that the Grace of God may be ever with us to support us in all our Dangers, and carry us through all Temptations; that He may bless all our honest Endeavours, and make us content with what his Providence shall order for us;—and that we may continue his faithful Servants this Day, and all the Days of our Life: For all which Blessings let us now devoutly pray.

Thanksgiving. | **M**OST gracious and merciful God, by whom the World is governed and preserved, we give Thee humble Thanks for thy fatherly Care over us, in preserving us from the Dangers of the Night past, and in bringing us safe to see another Day.

We gratefully acknowledge our Obligations to Thee for all the *Necessaries, Conveniencies, and Comforts*, of our Life;—for all the Means of our Well-being here, and of our everlasting Happiness hereafter.

We

We give Thee Thanks for the Light of thy Gospel, and the Help of thy Grace, and for the Promise Thou hast made us of Pardon and Forgiveness through thy Son Christ Jesus, on our sincere Repentance and Amendment.

[We should also remember that S. in the 1st part of the prayer.]

Confession. [We acknowledge, with humble and contrite Hearts, that we have not been duly grateful for these thy Mercies, but have in innumerable Instances neglected our Duty, and done Evil in the Sight of the holy and Heart-searching God.]

Petitions. [1. Pardon, we beseech thee, O Lord, all our Sins, thro' the Riches of thy Grace in giving thy Son to be a Sacrifice for our Sins, to rise again for our Justification, and to raise us to a new and divine Life.

2. Give us Grace, that we may for the future walk as in thy Sight;—make a Conscience of all our Ways;—and, fearing to offend Thee, may never fall into the Sins of which we have repented.

3. Enable us to resist and overcome the Temptations of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil;—to follow the Motions of thy good Spirit;—to be serious and holy in our Lives;—true and just in our Dealings;—watchful over our Thoughts, Words, and Actions;—diligent in our Business, and temperate in all Things.

4. Give us Grace honestly to improve all the Talents which Thou hast committed to our Trust;—and may no worldly Business, no worldly Pleasures, divert us from the Concerns of the Life to come!

5. May thy Blessing be on our Persons, Labours, Substance; and on all that belongs to us! And may we never undertake any Work, which we dare not beg Thee to prosper!

6. May thy Grace defend us in all Assaults of our Enemies;—And grant that this Day we fall into no Sin, neither run into any Kind of Danger; but that all our Doings may be ordered by thy Governance, to do always what is righteous in thy Sight.

7. Give us, gracious God, whatever is needful for us, and Grace not to abuse thy Favours:—Give us, we beseech Thee, contented Minds;—and make us ever mindful of the Wants, and Sorrows of others.

8. Give

8. Give us, in this World, the Knowledge of thy Truth, and in the World to come Life everlasting, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

On Sunday Morning let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added.

S.

[Father of Mercies, and God of all Comfort, as we are favoured, through thy Goodness, with another Sabbath, a Day of holy Rest and Worship, may it be sanctified with the greatest Care and Seriousness by us, as a Christian Family. May we love thy House, engage in thy public Service with all Attention and Pleasure, worship thee in Spirit and in Truth, and "receive with Meekness thy Word, which is able to save our Souls." May the whole Day be so spent, that it may contribute to our increasing Knowledge, Piety, and Comfort, and greater Fitness for future Glory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.]

O thou, &c.—Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c. See Page 5.

IN THE EVENING.

[By the same BISHOP.]

*Let one of the Family read slowly what follows,
the rest seriously attending.*

*As by the Favour of God, we are come to the Evening of this Day; and as we are so much nearer our latter End, let us seriously consider this, and pray to God to prepare us for the Hour of Death.—Let us, with penitent Hearts, beseech Him to pardon our Offences, and to deliver us from the Evils which we have deserved:—Let us resolve to amend whatever we have done amiss, and pray to God that his Grace may keep us from
returning*

returning to those Sins, of which we have repented: We shall then be safe under his Protection, who alone can defend us from the Dangers of the Night: For all which Blessings let us now devoutly pray.

EVENING PRAYER for a Family.

Thanks-giving. | O Lord, and heavenly Father, we acknowledge thy great Goodness to us, in sparing us when we deserve Punishment;—in giving us the Necessaries of this Life, and in setting before us the Happiness of a better. S.

Confession. | [We are truly sorry for the Errors and Sins of this Day, and our past Lives. We are grieved that we have so often forgotten thy Presence, Authority, and Goodness, and have not been more solicitous to obtain thy Approbation, and live to thy Glory.]

Petitions. | 1. Merciful God, pardon our Offences, correct and amend what is amiss in us, that, as we grow in Years, we may grow in Grace, and the nearer we come to our latter End, the better we may be prepared for it.

2. In the Midst of *Life* we are in *Death*. Lord grant that *this Thought*, and a due Sense of our Frailty, may make us careful how we live, that we may escape the bitter Pains of eternal Misery.

3. Take from us all Ignorance, Hardness of Heart, and too much Carefulness for the Things of this Life.

4. Make us an Household fearing Thee, O God, submitting ourselves to thy good Pleasure, and putting our whole Trust in thy Mercy.

5. Give us a true Knowledge of ourselves;—of the Corruption of our Nature;—and the Necessity of thy gracious Help to save us from Ruin.

6. And may the Spirit of Christ ever live and rule in us, possessing our Souls with a sincere Love of God, with an earnest Desire to please Him, and with a Dread of offending Him!—Sanctify us wholly, we beseech Thee, that our Spirits, and Souls, and Bodies, may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7. Continue

7. Continue to us, and to all Christian Churches, the Means of Grace and Salvation; and may the saving Truths of the Gospel be published and received in all the World!

8. Forgive *all* who have injured us, and forgive our many Offences against our Neighbour.

9. May God, whose Kingdom ruleth over all, bless our gracious *King*, and such as are put in Authority under him, that *they* may govern with Truth and Justice, and that *we*, whose Duty it is to *honour* and *obey*, may do it for Conscience-sake.

10. Defend us from all Adversities, which may happen to our Bodies, and from all evil Thoughts which may assault and hurt our Souls;—and prepare us to receive, with an humble Resignation, whatever thy Providence shall think best for us.

11. Finally, we beseech Thee to defend us from all Perils and Dangers of this Night, and to give us Grace, that we may *lead* and *end* our Lives in thy Faith and Fear, and to thy Glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On Sunday Evening let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added.

S.

[Accept, thou God of all Grace, our thankful Acknowledgments for the Privileges of thy Day, and House. Mercifully forgive the *Imiquities* of our *holy Things*: (Exod. xxviii. 38.) Write thy Commandments on our Hearts: And may we shew by our holy, unblameable, useful Lives, that we have not attended thy Worship this Day in vain. May we behave through the following Week, and all future Life, worthy the great Advantages with which thou art indulging us, and be growing more *prepared* for the Services and Enjoyments of thy heavenly Temple, thro' our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.]

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c. See Page 5.

A MORN.

A M O R N I N G P R A Y E R,

To be used as there is Occasion by one Person in private, or by a Family, changing *we* for *I*, *us* for *me*, &c.

[By the late Bishop of London, Dr GIBSON. See his little Tract intituled, *An Exhortation to Family Prayer.*]

*Acknowledgment
of God's Mercy
and Preservation,
especially the
Night past.*

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, in whom *I* live, move, and have my Being, and whose Mercy is over all thy Works; *I* thy needy Creature, in a thankful Sense of thy good Providence over *me*, render Thee my humblest Praises for thy Preservation of *me* from the Beginning of my Life to this Day. Blessed be thy holy Name for the continual Protection of thy Hand, by which *I* have been defended amidst the Changes and Chances of this mortal Life, and kept and delivered from innumerable Dangers, and particularly from the Terrors and evil Accidents of the past Night. — To thy watchful Providence *I* wholly owe it, * [that no Evil hath come nigh *me*, or my Dwelling, but that *I* have enjoyed quiet and refreshing Sleep, and am brought in Safety to the Beginning of this Day.] For these and all thy other Mercies, my Soul doth bless and magnify thy glorious Name; humbly beseeching Thee to accept this my Morning Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving, for his Sake, who laid down in the Grave, and rose again for *me*, thy Son, my only Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A N D

* When there have been Disturbances of any Kind in the Night, instead of what is above between the Hooks, the following Words may be used; *that, notwithstanding my Fears and Dangers, I am brought in Safety to the Beginning of this Day.*

*Dedication of Soul
and Body to God's
Service [with a Con-
fession of Sins,] and
a Resolution to be
growing daily in
Goodness.*

AND since it is of thy Mercy, gracious Father, that another Day is added to my Life; I here dedicate both my Soul and Body to Thee and thy Service, to promote thy Glory and my own Salvation, in a sober, righteous, and godly Life. [I sincerely lament my many Transgressions against Thee, would be deeply humbled for them before Thee, and earnestly intreat thy Forgiveness of them.] I now, as in thy Presence, renounce the Devil and all his Works, the Vanities of this wicked World, and all the sinful Lusts of the Flesh, desiring nothing so much as to serve Thee faithfully all the Days of my Life. And I sincerely resolve so to improve the Time, which thou shalt be pleased to grant me in this World, that I may every Day become a better Christian, and persevere in Holiness and Righteousness unto the End. In which Resolutions do Thou, merciful God, confirm and strengthen me; and especially this Day keep it stedfastly in the Purpose of my Heart to perform them, that as I grow in Age, I may grow in Grace, and in the Knowledge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*For Grace to en-
able me to per-
form that Reso-
lution.*

BUT, Lord, thou knowest the Weakness and Corruption of my Nature, and the manifold Temptations, which I daily meet with; I therefore humbly beseech Thee to have Compassion on my Infirmities, and to give me the constant Assistance of thy Holy Spirit; that I may be effectually restrained from Sin, and excited to my Duty. And when Thou seest me giving way to any Temptation, suffer me not to be tempted above what I am able, but stretch out thy helping Hand to save and deliver me. Imprint on my Heart such a Dread of thy Judgments, and such a Love of thy Goodness towards me, as may make me both afraid and ashamed to offend Thee; and above all keep up in my Mind a lively Remembrance of that great Day, in which I must give a strict Account of my Thoughts, Words, and Actions, and, according to the Works done in the Body, be eternally rewarded or punished by him, whom Thou hast appointed

pointed Judge of Quick and Dead, thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

For Grace to guide and keep me the following Day. | I N particular, that I may then be able to give Account of this Day; grant me Grace to have Thee and thy Law before my Eyes, that I may walk in it according to thy Will, with Watchfulness and Circumspection. Keep me sober and temperate in my Meat and Drink, and diligent in the Calling and Profession which thy Providence hath appointed me. Grant me Patience under any Affliction thou shalt see fit to lay upon me, and a Mind always contented with my present Condition. Give me Grace to be just and upright in all my Dealings, quiet and peaceable among my Neighbours, full of Compassion towards the Needy and Afflicted; and ever ready to do Good to all Men, according to the Abilities and Opportunities which thou shalt give me: that so walking faithfully before Thee all my Days, and being found watching whenever my appointed Time shall come, I may from a Life of Righteousness, be translated to a Life of Glory, through the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ my only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

For God's Blessing on the Business of the Day. | [A ND now I am entering on the Business of the Station wherein thy Providence hath placed me, I humbly beg thy Blessing this Day on my honest Designs and Undertakings. Direct me in all my Ways and prosper the Works of my Hands.]

And as I desire to walk in a constant Sense of thy All-seeing Providence, so let the same good Providence watch over me, and preserve my Going-out and Coming-in. Defend me from all Dangers and Adversities, and be graciously pleased to take me, and all Things belonging to me, into thy fatherly Care and Protection. These Things, O Lord, and whatever else thou shalt see necessary and convenient, either for my Soul, Body, or Estate, I humbly beg of Thee, for the Sake of thy Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

On Sunday Morning, let what is put between the Hooks [thus] be added, and what is between the Hooks in the above Petition for God's Blessing on the Business of the Day, be omitted.

[AND now I am going to the Place of thy public Worship, I beseech thee let thy Holy Spirit accompany me, and make me devout, serious, and attentive. Raise my Mind from the Thoughts of this World to the Consideration of the next, that I may join fervently in the Prayers and Praises of thy Church, and listen to my Duty with an honest Heart, in Order to practise it. And give me Grace to dedicate this Day, as thou hast appointed me, to thy Service, and the Care of my Soul. Direct me in all my Ways, and guide my Feet in thy Paths.]

O thou, &c.—Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c. See Page 5.

AN EVENING PRAYER,

To be used, as there is Occasion, by one Person in private, or by a Family.

[By Bishop GIBSON.]

*Confession of Sins,
and a Petition
for Contrition
and Pardon.*

MOST Gracious and Merciful God, who art of purer Eyes than to behold Iniquity, and hast promised Mercy and Forgiveness to all them who confess and forsake their Sins; I come before Thee in an humble Sense of my own Unworthiness, acknowledging my manifold Transgressions of thy righteous Laws, in Thought, Word, and Deed. I have every Day been doing those Things, which Thou hast forbidden, and leaving undone those Things, which Thou hast commanded; so that when I look back upon my Life, and remember that Thou art privy to my most secret Sins, I am afraid of thy Judgments, and ashamed to lift up my Eyes unto Thee. * But, O gracious Father, who desirest not the Death of a Sinner, look on me, I beseech Thee, in thy

* Here make a particular Confession of the Sins, and Failings of the past Day.

thy Son Jesus Christ, and, for the Merits of his Sufferings, be Thou merciful to my Sins. Make me deeply sensible of the great Evil of them, and work in me a hearty Contrition, and let the Remembrance of them be more grievous and afflicting to me, than of any other Evil whatsoever; that I, worthily lamenting my Transgressions, and being brought to a Hatred of my Sins, and a hearty Repentance, may obtain Forgiveness at thy Hands, who art ever ready to receive humble and penitent Sinners; for the Sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, my only Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

*Petition for Grace,
to reform and grow
better.*

AND lest, thro' my own Frailty, or the Temptations which encompass me, I be drawn again to my former Sins; vouchsafe me, I beseech Thee, the Direction and Assistance of thy Holy Spirit; that as thou hast put into my Heart these Desires and Resolutions of Amendment, so by the Help of thy Grace, I may bring the same to good Effect, in a godly, righteous, and sober Life. Reform whatever thou findest amiss in the Temper and Disposition of my Soul; that no unclean Thoughts, unlawful Designs, or inordinate Desires, may rest there. Purge my Heart from Envy, Hatred, and Malice; that I may never suffer the Sun to go down upon my Wrath, but may always go to my Rest in Peace, Charity, and Good-will, with a Conscience void of Offence towards Thee, and towards Men: That so my Heart being a fit Habitation for thy holy Spirit, He may continually dwell therein; and I, whether I wake or sleep, may be under his blessed Protection, and have my whole Spirit, Soul, and Body, preserved pure and blameless unto the Coming of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Intercession general and particular.

WITH these Prayers in Behalf of myself, accept, O Lord, as the Testimony of my Love and Charity, my hearty Intercessions for all Mankind. Let the Light of thy Gospel shine on all Nations; and may as many, as have already heard and received it, live as becomes it. Be more especially gracious to the Church and Nation whereunto

whereunto *I* belong. Bless the King, and all who by thy Providence have Authority under him; so rule their Hearts, and strengthen their Hands, that they may neither want Will nor Power to punish Wickedness and Vice, and to maintain thy true Religion among us. Send down thy Blessings, temporal and spiritual, on all my Relations, Friends, and Neighbours. Reward all who have done *me* Good, and pardon all those who have done, or wish *me* Evil, and give them Repentance and better Minds. Be merciful to all who are in Trouble or Affliction of Mind, Body, or Estate: and do Thou, the God of Pity and Compassion, administer to every one Help and Comfort, according to their several Necessities; for *his* Sake, who went about doing Good to the Souls and Bodies of Men, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Thanksgiving
general and
particular.*

TO these Prayers and Intercessions for future Blessings, *I* add my unfeigned Thanks for all thy Mercies, which from Time to Time thou hast vouchsafed *me*: for my Being, my Reason, and all other Endowments and Faculties of Soul and Body: For my Health, Friends, Food, and Raiment, and all other Comforts and Conveniencies of Life. Above all, *I* adore thy tender Mercy and Compassion to *me*, and to all Mankind, in sending thy only Son into the World, to redeem *me* from Sin and eternal Death, and in giving *me* the Knowledge and Sense of my Duty towards Thee. *I* bless Thee for thy Patience with *me*, notwithstanding my many and great Provocations; for all the Directions, Assistances, and Comforts of thy holy Spirit; for thy continual Care and watchful Providence over *me*, through the whole Course of my Life; and particularly for the Mercies and Benefits of the past Day: Beseeching Thee to continue these thy Blessings to *me*, and give *me* Grace to shew my Sense of them, and all thy other Mercies, in a sincere Obedience to *his* Laws, through whose Merits and Intercession *I* hope for Acceptance, even thy Son my Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Petition for God's
Protection the fol-
lowing Night.*

IN a particular Manner I beseech Thee to continue thy gracious Protection to me this Night. Into thy Hand I commend my Soul and Body, my Substance, Dwelling, and all Things that belong to me. Do thou, gracious God, who neither sleepest nor sleepest, be pleased to take both me, and them, this Night into thy especial Care and Protection. Defend me from all Dangers and Mischiefs, and from the Dread and Fear of them; that I may enjoy such quiet and refreshing Sleep, as may fit me for the Duties of the following Day. And, Lord, make me ever mindful of that Time when I shall lie down in the Dust; and grant me Grace always to live in such a State. that I may never be afraid to die; but that whether I live, I may live unto Thee; or whether I die, I may die unto thee; so that living and dying I may be thine, through the Merits and Satisfaction of thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

On Sunday Evening let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added.

[By Bishop PATRICK. See his Book of Devotions.]

[I thank thee, O Lord, that thou hast permitted me this Day to attend on thee in the public Duties of thy Worship and Service. In Mercy forgive all which thy pure and holy Eyes have seen amiss in me, and may the Seed there sown take deep Root in my Heart, and bring forth Fruit abundantly, that "being not a forgetful Hearer, but a Doer of the Work, I may be blessed in my Deeds." * Help me in the following Week, to set a Watch before my Mouth, and to keep the Door of my Lips:† — Preserve me "that my Heart may not incline to any evil Thing, to practise wicked Works with Men, who work Iniquity;" ‡ but may I always be "a Follower of that which is good:" § and "as I have received how I ought to walk and please thee, my God, so may I abound more and more." || Awaken these good Thoughts and Desires in my Heart from Time to Time, "that the Words of our Saviour may abide " in

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* Jam. i. 25. † Ps. cxli. 3. ‡ Ps. cxli. 4. § 1 Pet. iii. 13. || 1 Thess. iv. 1.

"in me, and I in Him." * And lead me by thy Holy Spirit to immortal Happiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.]

Our Father, &c. The Grace of our Lord, &c.

You will observe, (says Bishop GIBSON, in his Exhortation to Prayer) that each of these two Prayers for Morning, and Evening is divided into several Branches; each Branch being a shorter Prayer in the Manner of a Collect, and containing one distinct Head of the several Matters for which a Christian is bound to pray. And I chose this Method, says he, because, in my Opinion, it keeps the Thoughts more distinct, than they can well be kept in one long continued Prayer; and if they happen to wander, the solemn Conclusion of one Prayer, with the Entrance on another, and the Part which every one present [when it is used as a Family Prayer] has in saying AMEN to each, is a good Means to awaken the Attention, and to recal the Thoughts to their proper Work.

A M O R N I N G P R A Y E R.

Designed principally for one in private, but it may be used occasionally by a Family, changing *I* for *we*, &c.

Thanksgiving. **A**L MIGHTY and most merciful God, with my whole Heart I thank thee for my Preservation during the past Night, and for adding another Day to my Life, while so many are cut off unprepared and unwarned.

Confession and Petition for Pardon. It is of thy Mercies, O Lord, that I also am not consumed: For mine Iniquities have been more than the Hairs of my Head; and shouldst thou enter into Judgment with me, thou wouldst be righteous, and I must be condemned and miserable. But do thou, O Lord, be merciful to me a Sinner

Sinner through thy Son Jesus Christ, the great Propitiation; and let not *mine* Iniquities hide good Things from *me*.

Self-dedication to God. To thee, O Lord, and to thy Service, I here dedicate *myself*, both Soul and Body, to promote thy Glory and *my* own Salvation. I resolve, and will, by thy Grace, so endeavour to improve the Time, which thou shalt be pleased to grant *me*, that I may, every Day, increase in Holiness, and persevere in it to the End of *my* Life.

Petition for Assistance. Strengthen *me*, I beseech Thee, by thy Holy Spirit, without which, I am unable to fulfil these sincere Purposes. And secure *me* by thy Grace against the Snarers and Temptations, to which I am daily exposed.

Petition in Behalf of others. Send thy glorious Gospel to the whole human Race, and give them the Love and Fear of Thee; but particularly bless *my* Relations and Friends,—and all who remember *me* in their Prayers. Pardon *my* Enemies, and turn their Hearts; and grant to *all* whatsoever is needful or profitable, either for the Welfare of their Bodies, or the Salvation of their Souls.

Petition for God's Blessing. Enable *me*, Lord of all Power and Goodness, faithfully to perform the several Duties belonging to *my* Station in this Life.—Prosper thou the Work of *my* Hands, and bless *my* honest Endeavours. Guard *my* Health, and Safety; and whatever I do, may I do it heartily, as to the Lord; that I may be an useful Member of Society, and a faithful Servant of Christ.—May I live all the Day long in thy Fear, under a Sense of thy Presence, in an humble Trust in thy fatherly Protection, and in a lively Hope of everlasting Glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

On Sunday Morning, let what follows between the Hoo's [thus] be added, but at no other Time.

[I thank Thee, O Lord, for setting apart a Day for the noble Employment of joining with *my* Fellow-Christians in the public Worship and Service of our Great Creator and Redeemer.—Teach *me* to remember this thy Command; and to shew *my* Obedience, in devoutly attending

tending on thy Worship, and fervently joining in the several Parts of it. Let thy Word, delivered and explained by the Mouth of thy Ministers, find a ready Admission into *my* Heart, and not be lost through Carelessness, or rendered fruitless by the vain Pursuits of the World. This I humbly beg for the Sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c.

AN EVENING PRAYER.

Designed *principally* for one in private, but it may be used *occasionally* by a Family.

S.

Thanksgiving. | MOST gracious God, I humbly thank thee for having safely brought *me* to the Conclusion of this Day; and for all *my* past, as well as present Mercies; but above all, for Jesus Christ thy Son, for his glorious Gospel, and the Hope of a far better Life in thy eternal Kingdom.

Confession. | I acknowledge, O Lord, that *I* am a sinful Creature; that *I* have made very ungrateful Returns to thine infinite Goodness, and often transgressed thy Commandments: For which, and for whatever Sins *I* have this Day committed in Thought, Word, or Deed, *I* desire to be sincerely penitent. *

Petition for Pardon. | Father of everlasting Compassion, pardon, for thy Son Jesus Christ's Sake, all *my* Sins both of Omission and Commission. "*I* have destroyed *myself*, but in him is *my* Help †." *I* rely on him, as *my* Saviour; *I* submit to him, as *my* Lord; and *I* desire to comply with the reasonable and gracious Terms proposed in the Gospel.

Petition for Assistance. | Grant *me*, O Lord, the Assistance of thy Grace to supply the Weakness of *my* Endeavours, to reform *my* depraved Will, and to govern all *my* Affections.—Preserve *me* from the Sin of Unbelief

* Here a short Pause may be made for Recollection, and secret Confession of the Sins and Failings of the Day:—But a more particular Confession may be made in private, either before or after Prayer, as we have Time for a fuller Self-examination, † Hof, xiii, 9.

Unbelief in thy Promises, and let me ever remember them, to my great and endless Comfort.

Petition in Behalf of others. Be merciful and gracious to the whole Race of Mankind, particularly those to whom I am more immediately related, as likewise to this Family. I beg thy Blessing on all those who pray for me, and particularly on the afflicted. Reconcile them, O Lord, to their Sufferings, and all of us to thyself; and give them and me whatsoever thine infinite Wisdom knows to be necessary, both for our spiritual and temporal Welfare.

For Rest and Protection. I commit myself unto thee, O God, this Night, beseeching thee to give me Rest, and to keep me in Safety: Or, if my Soul should be required of me before the Morning Light, receive me to thy Mercy, through the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ, in whom thou art always well pleased. Amen.

On Sunday Evening, let what follows between the Hooks [thus] be added to this Prayer, but at no other Time.

[I lament it, O Lord, as my Unhappiness, as well as my Fault, that I love thee no better; and I am grieved to think of my Coldness and Inattention, which has too often appeared during my Attendance on the solemn Service of this thy Day. Accept of such imperfect Offerings as I have made. Grant that I may meditate on thy Law with Profit and Delight; and that the good Seed sown may take deep Root in my Heart, and bring forth abundant Fruits; that so my Conversation may be such as becometh the Disciple and Follower of my blessed Instructor and Master, Jesus Christ. Amen.]

Our Father, &c.—The Grace, &c.

These Prayers are regularly divided; as such Divisions may be of very great Use, by preserving Order, and preventing Confusion in our Addresses to God, particularly in reminding us of what we want, and for what we ought to ask. It is therefore hoped, that the several Heads or Divisions, will be carefully observed and imprinted in our Memories; with a View to which, these Divisions are inserted in the Margin on the Sides of these Prayers.

Prayers.—By the Blessing of God on the Use of these Means, we may be enabled *in Time* to pursue the same Order and Method both Morning and Evening, in our own Words and Expressions; namely, in Thanksgivings and Petitions formed out of our Hearts. A Circumstance greatly to be desired, as it will form the Mind to an Habit of *regular* Prayer; but this can only be attained by a diligent Use of our Talents; that is to say, by devout and constant Practice.

The Use too of these Divisions may be extended still farther; as by this Method, such as are young, may happily become acquainted with the *Design*, and *Meaning* of what they repeat; so as *more early* in Life to acquire the inestimable Habit of praying with the Understanding, and performing to their Creator in their Youth a reasonable Service.

These two short Prayers from our Liturgy, with a small Addition to that for the Evening, may be learnt by Heart: and by such as cannot pray without a Form, or retain longer Prayers in their weak Memories, these may be used at Times, when they have no Opportunity for Retirement, either as they ride, walk, or sit in Company with others.

IN THE MORNING.

O LORD, my heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought me to the *Beginning of this Day*, defend me in the same with thy mighty Power; and grant, that *this Day* I fall into no Sin, neither run into any Kind of Danger; but that *all my Doings* may be ordered by thy Governance to do always what is righteous in thy Sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* Our Father, &c.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with me this Day and for evermore. *Amen.*

IN THE EVENING.

[**M**OST gracious God, I heartily thank Thee for *all* the Mercies I have this Day received, am truly sorry for my Misdoings, and humbly intreat thy *Forgiveness* of whatever Sins I have committed in Thought, Word, or Deed.] Lighten my Darkness, I beseech thee, and by thy great *Mercy* defend me from *all* Perils and Dangers of *this Night* for the *Love* of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c. See Page 5.

MORNING PRAYER.

For a Person in private, or for a Family, using *we* for *I*,
us for *me*, &c. &c.

S.

Adoration. | **O** Lord God Almighty, thou makest Light and createst Darkness, thou causest the Returns of Morning and Evening to rejoice.

Thanksgiving. | I thankfully acknowledge thy Goodness, that I am brought in Safety to see the Light of another Morning, while *many* have slept the Sleep of Death. With *my* restored Strength and Capacities I would praise thee, as *my* Life, and the Length of my Days.

Self-dedication. | I would this Morning seriously devote *myself* to thee, and solemnly engage, in thine awful Presence, to spend this Day as a reasonable Creature and a Christian, in serving thee and *my* Fellow Creatures, and working out *my* own Salvation.

General Confession and Petition for Pardon. | I have, alas! spent too many Days in Folly and Sin, forgetful of God, of the Worth of *my* Soul, and of *my* christian Privileges and Hopes. I acknowledge
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my Transgressions and would be sorry for all my Sins: I sincerely repent of them before thee, and earnestly intreat thy Forgiveness through thy Son Jesus Christ, who gave Himself a Sacrifice for our Sins, and ever liveth to make Intercession for us.

For Assistance. Thro' Him I beg the Assistance of thy Holy Spirit, that I may for the future lead a sober, righteous, and godly Life, abstaining from the Appearance of Evil, and adorning my Christian Profession.

For others. I humbly pray for all my Fellow Creatures, especially, for my Relations and Friends, that they may receive Mercies suited to their various Wants, and that they may wisely improve them.

For God's Blessing. I beseech thee, O Lord, to keep me this Day from all Evil, in my Going-out, and Coming-in. Feed me with Food convenient for me, and grant me Health and Peace. May thy Blessing attend all my lawful Business and Enjoyments. May a Sense of thy Presence, and a Regard to thy Glory fill my Heart, and may I be in the Fear of the Lord all the Day long. May these Regards to thee, the all-seeing God, engage me to be diligent in Business, to bridle my Tongue, to govern my Passions, and rule my Spirit. May I seize every Opportunity of doing good to others, and improving my own Knowledge and Piety; and may I have Reason in the Evening for comfortable Reflections on the Manner in which I have spent the Day, and for grateful Acknowledgement of thy Care and Goodness: And in all I do may I be graciously accepted thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On Sunday Morning let the following Collect for the 13th Sunday after Trinity, with a small Addition, be used.

[Almighty and merciful God, of whose only Gift it cometh, that thy faithful People do unto thee true and laudable Service, grant, I beseech thee, that I may so spend this holy Day in the Exercises of Piety and Devotion, that I may hear thy Word with so much Attention, and pray with so much Fervour, that I fail not finally to attain the Blessings thou hast promised to those, who love,

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and

and serve Thee, thro' the Merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*] Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c. See Page 5.

AN EVENING PRAYER,

For a Person in private; or for a Family, using *we* for *I*,
us for *me*, &c. &c.

S.

Adoration. | ALMIGHTY God, the Author, and Support of all Nature. The Day is thine : The Night also is thine : The Darkness and Light are both *alike* to thee.

Thanks giving. | I approach thy Throne of Grace this Evening in the Name of Jesus Christ, the great Mediator, to return thee unfeigned *Thanks* for thy Care and Goodness vouchsafed to *me* thro' this Day, and that *I* am brought to the Conclusion of it in Comfort. *I* praise thee for the Health and Ease *I* have enjoyed, that *my* Wants have been supplied, and that *no Evil* hath befallen *me*.

Confession and Petition for Pardon. | On a serious Review of this Day, and *my* past life, I see abundant Reason for deep Humiliation before Thee, the holy Lord God, for *my* many Transgressions of thy righteous Commandments. *I* am sorry and ashamed that *I* have made such ungrateful Returns for thy daily Goodness. But thou art gracious and merciful, and hast sent thine only Son into the World to make an Atonement for our Sins, to save us from Destruction, and to bring us into thy Favour. *I* desire to believe and trust in this all-sufficient Saviour, to give *myself* to Him, as the Lord who *bought me*, and thro' *Him* to obtain the *Pardon* of all *my* Sins.

For Assistance. | May *I* be enabled for the future to behave, as his Servant, “doing the Will of God from “the Heart.” May *I* labour and strive to grow in Knowledge,

Knowledge, and to be holy in all Manner of Conversation. May thy Grace be sufficient for me, to assist me in every Duty, to preserve me from sinning against thee, to strengthen me for every Trial and Affliction, and to prepare me for Death and Eternity.

For others. | Hear my Intercession for all Men, that thy Salvation may be known to all Nations, that our King and Country may be the Care of thy kind Providence; that Magistrates, Christian Ministers, Parents, and Masters, may unite their Endeavours to promote Piety, Righteousness, and Peace; and do thou, O Lord, prosper all such Attempts. Do Good to all my Relations and Friends, and afford seasonable Relief to all the Afflicted in Mind, Body, or Estate.

For Protection, and Rest. | Encouraged by thy Goodness, and my Experience of thy fatherly Care this Day, and all my Days, I commit myself to thy Almighty Protection thro' the Night. May I rest safely, and be quiet from Fear of Evil. May my Thoughts be serious and devout, when I lie down; and, when I awake, may I still be with thee.—O thou Keeper of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, be thou always my Guardian: And when I lie down in the Grave, be thou the Strength of my Heart, and my Portion for ever, thro' our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

On Sunday Evening let the Collect which follows between the Hooks [thus] be added, namely the Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent, with a small Addition.

[O God, I beseech thee, mercifully to receive these Prayers, and those also which I have this Day offered to thee in the public Congregation, and have Compassion on my Infirmities, that my Blindness and Unworthiness may not deprive me of the Advantage of them: And grant, I beseech thee, that I may in such wise mark, learn, and inwardly digest what I have this Day heard, that by Pati-

ence and Comfort of thy holy Word, I may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed *Hope* of everlasting Life, which thou hast given us in thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c. See Page 5.

A Parent's PRAYER for his Children.

[By Bishop WILSON.]

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless my Children, for *his* Sake, with healthful Bodies, teachable Minds, and sanctified Hearts, that they may remember their Creator all their Days.—Let thy Grace preserve them from the Temptations of an evil World, and may I never be wanting in any Part of my Duty to them!—May I instruct them in the Faith and Duties of the Christian Life, and set them an Example of these.—May I convince them of their Faults, and correct them in Reason and Love.—Be Thou, O God, their Father and their Portion in this World and in the World to come! *Amen.*

MORNING PRAYER,

For an Infant at 3 or 4 Years old.

[By Dr WATTS.]

ALMIGHTY God, the Maker of every Thing in Heaven and Earth, the Darkness goes away, and the Day-light comes at thy Command: Thou art good, and thou doest Good continually.

I thank thee that thou hast taken such Care of me this Night, and that I am alive and well this Morning.

Save me, O Lord, from Evil all this Day long, and let me love and serve thee for ever, for the Sake of Jesus Christ thy Son. *Amen.*

An EVENING PRAYER for an Infant of the same Age.

[By the same.]

O Lord God, who knowest all Things, thou seest me by Night as well as by Day.

I pray thee, for Christ's Sake, forgive me whatever I have done amiss this Day, and keep me safe all this Night while I am asleep.

I desire to lie down under thy Care, and to abide for ever under thy Blessing, for thou art a God of all Power and everlasting Mercy. *Amen.*

Note. The most important Things of Religion, which can be conveyed into the Understanding of a young Child, are *these*, namely, that God made all Things, and knows all Things; that he sees us every where; and is able to help us; that he is gracious and merciful; that we want his Protection and Care by Night and by Day, to keep us from Evil, and to make us always safe and happy; that we are sinful Creatures and want Forgiveness; and that we stand in Need of his Grace and Help to do our Duty; that all Blessings are to be sought of God by Prayer; that he is to be praised for all the Mercies that we receive; and that all our Hope of Acceptance is on the Account of Jesus Christ the Son of God, our Mediator. All which Things are comprized in very plain Language, and very briefly, in one or other of these two Prayers for Children in the very earliest Years of Life. It cannot be expected that all the distinct Parts of Prayer should be particularly exemplified in so narrow a Compass, and for the youngest Understandings.

If Parents desire that their Children, as soon as ever they can pronounce Words, should acknowledge God by Prayer Morning and Evening, there is one Sentence in each of these Prayers for Infants, which may serve for that Purpose, namely,

For the M O R N I N G.

Save me, O Lord, from Evil all this Day long, and let me love and serve thee for ever.

For

For the EVENING.

I pray thee, O Lord, forgive me whatsoever I have done amiss this Day, and keep me safe all this Night.

Here let it be observed, that the Infant's Morning and Evening Prayers are made to serve for the first Sentences of the young Child's daily Prayers, that this Duty might be rendered as easy as possible to young Children, by only adding a few more Petitions to what they had already learned.

A MORNING PRAYER for a young Child from
4 to 8 Years old.

[By the same]

ALMIGHTY God, the Maker of every Thing in Heaven and Earth; the Darkneſs goes away, and the Day-light comes at thy Command: Thou art good, and thou doest Good continually. I thank thee that thou haſt taken ſuch Care of me this Night, and that I am alive and well this Morning. Save me, O Lord, from Evil all this Day long, and let me love and ſerve thee for ever, for the Sake of Jeſus Chriſt thy Son.

Beſtow on me every good Thing that I have need of for my Body and my Soul: Aſſiſt me by thy Holy Spirit to do thy Will: Make me always afraid to offend thee; and let me live and die in thy Favour.

Hear the Prayers of a Child, O Lord, and pardon all my Sins, becauſe thy beloved Son died once on Earth for ſinful Creatures, though he never ſinned himſelf; and now he lives in Heaven to * pray for them and ſave them: Let his Name be praiſed for ever and ever. Amen. Our Father, &c. The Grace, &c. See Page 5.

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To

* The Word *Intercede* would have been here uſed, which ſignifies only to pray for another, but it was apprehended that Word would have been too hard for a Child.

To be added on Sunday Morning.

Suffer me not, O Lord, to waste this thy Day in Sin and Folly ; but let me worship thee with much Delight, Teach me to know more of thee, and to serve thee better than ever I have done before, that I may be fitter to dwell in Heaven, where thy Worship and Service are everlasting. *Amen.*

*An EVENING PRAYER for a young Child from
4 to 8 Years old.*

[By the same.]

O Lord God, who knowest all Things, thou seest me by Night as well as by Day : I pray thee, for Christ's Sake, forgive me whatsoever I have done amiss this Day, and keep me safe all this Night while I am asleep. I desire to lie down under thy Care, and to abide for ever under thy Blessing, for thou art a God of all Power and everlasting Mercy.

Bless all my Friends as well as myself ; do Good to them at all Times and in all Places, and help me always to serve them in Love.

And when I have done thy Will here, by thy Grace assisting me, and enjoyed thy Blessings on Earth, then give my Soul a Place in Heaven to dwell with thee there, and with thy Son Jesus Christ : For Heaven and Earth, and all Things in them, are thine for ever and ever. *Amen.* Our Father, &c. The Grace, &c. See Page 5.

To be added on Sunday Evening.

Most gracious God, let me never forget the many good Things which I have heard this Day, but let them abide in my Heart, so as to amend my Life ; that I may be able to give a good Account of them to Jesus Christ

Christ our Lord and Saviour, when he comes to judge the World at the last Day. *Amen.*

N. B. *Such as are desirous of seeing further Examples of Prayers composed for Children; as for Instance from 8 Years old to 12; and from 12 to 21, may purchase Dr Watts's little Book, intitled, Prayers for the Use and Imitation of Children (Price bound 1s.) which is well calculated to instruct them in the Nature of Prayer, and consequently merits the Notice of every Parent.*

Another MORNING and EVENING PRAYER for a Child from 5 to 10 Years old.

S.

Merciful God, and Father, who art in Heaven, look down I beseech Thee on an *helpless Child*: Incline my Heart to remember, love, and serve Thee, and keep me from every *evil Thought, Word, and Work*. May I grow in *Wisdom*, as I grow in *Stature*, and be in Favor with God and Man. Make me dutiful to my Parents, loving to all my Relations, obedient to my Teachers, and always in a Disposition to hear Advice, and receive Instruction. Preserve me this Day [*or this Night*] from every Danger, and grant all my humble Petitions for the Sake of Jesus Christ my Saviour, in whom alone I can be accepted.

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c.

A PRAYER to be used by a sick Person
Morning and Evening.

S.

Aderation. | **O** Lord God Almighty, I am *fearfully* and *wonderfully* made; and all my Powers of Body and Mind were produced, and are supported, by Thee. “Thou killest, and makest alive:” Thou “woundest, and makest whole.”

B 5

I humbly

Confession and Petition for Pardon. | I humbly own, and reverence thy Hand in my *present* Affliction. I acknowledge that thou art righteous in *all* that befalls me; for I have *sinned*: and thou chastenest me less than *mine Iniquities* deserve. In Punishment, thou shewest Mercy, continuest to me many Comforts, and givest me Hope of *that Pardon*, which I so much want, and at this Time earnestly intreat.

Petition for Improvement of Sicknefs. | I desire to search, and try my Ways, and turn unto the Lord, by deep Humility, sincere Repentance, and Faith in the great Redeemer: And may the *Fruit* of this, and every Affliction be, to take away Sin, and make my Heart better.

For the Restoration of Health. | I beseech Thee, O Lord, who healest, to direct me to, and prosper the *Means* for the Removal of my Disorder, and the Establishment of my Health; that I may yet be capable of glorifying Thee in my Station and Relations, and, by further Services for Thee on Earth, be fitter for Immortality.

For a right Temper of Mind. | Support me, gracious God, that "my Soul may not be cast down, and disquieted within me." Assist me to cherish penitent, believing, serious Thoughts, and Affections. Grant me such *Resignation to thy Will*, such Patience and Meekness towards Men, as my *divine Master* requireth, and as *He himself* manifested, while he was a Sufferer on Earth. May I learn from what I now *feel*, to *pity* all who are sick, in *pain*, or otherwise afflicted, and do all in my Power to assist, and relieve them.

For Preparation for Death. | If by this Affliction thou intendest to bring me down to the Grave, *prepare* me, by thy Grace, for my *Removal* hence, and *Entrance* on the unseen, eternal State: And may all the Sufferings of the *present* Life "work out for me a far more exceeding, and *eternal* Weight of Glory."

<p><i>To be added in the Morning.</i> [I bless Thee, O Lord, that thou art giving me ano- ther</p>	<p><i>To be added in the Evening.</i> [I thank Thee, O Lord, for any Degree of Ease and Com-</p>
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ther Day. Grant me such Measures of Ease and Comfort; that I may improve it diligently by conversing with Thee, and my own Heart in Meditation, and Prayer, and be capable of enjoying the Blessings, which thou art pleased still to grant me.]

Comfort, which I have this Day enjoyed. Grant me this Night such refreshing Rest, that I may be better able to discharge the Duties, and bear the Burdens, of another Day, if thou art pleased to indulge me with it. If my eyes are kept waking, may my Meditations of Thee be sweet, and useful to me.]

Pity my *Weakness*, merciful and heavenly Father, and hear my imperfect *Petitions*, thro' our Lord Jesus Christ, who was once "a Man of Sorrows," and is still "touched with the Feeling of our Infirmities:" To whom, "as our merciful High Priest," be Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c.

MORNING PRAYER for a Servant.

[By the late Bishop of London, Dr. GIBSON.]

On rising from Bed in the Morning think on these Words of the Psalmist;

I laid me down and slept, and rose up again, for the Lord sustained me. Psalm iii. 5.

And, when dressed, use the following Prayer.

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, in whom I live, move, and have my Being, and whose Mercy is over all thy Works; I render Thee my humble Thanks for thy Preservation of me from the Beginning of my Life to this Time. [Especially for thine inestimable love in the Redemption of the World by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the Means of Grace, and the Hope of Glory.]

In particular, I thank thee that thou hast protected me from the Perils and Dangers of the Night past, and hast given me quiet and comfortable Rest, and brought me safely to the Beginning of this Day.

Let

Let the same good Providence still watch over me, and preserve my Going-out and my Coming-in; that I may be defended from all Dangers and Mischiefs, and from the Temptations of the World, the Flesh and the Devil.

Give me Grace to behave myself with Sobriety, Diligence, and Honesty, in the Business of my Station; and with Duty and Submission to those whom thou hast set over me; and to desire and endeavour to live in Peace and Love with all the Family.

Preserve me in a strict Regard to Truth and Sincerity in all my Words and Actions, and let no Fear of Punishment or Displeasure from *Men*, ever make me transgress my Duty to *Thee*.

And to the End I may walk in thy Fear this Day, and all the Days of my Life, [keep up in my Mind a due Sense of my past Folly, Ingratitude, and Guilt, that I may be humble and penitent, trust in Christ Jesus, and be circumspect and watchful for the future. May I remember that thine Eye is continually upon me,] and that the great Day is approaching in which I must give a strict Account of my Thoughts, Words, and Actions, and according to the Works done in my Body, be sentenced to Happiness or Misery to all Eternity.

Grant this, most merciful Father, for the Sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer.
Amen.

Our Father, which art in Heaven; hallowed be thy Name.—Thy Kingdom come.—Thy Will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven.—Give us this Day our daily Bread;—and forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that trespass against us.—And lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with me and with *all*, whom it is my Duty to remember in my Prayers, this Day, [*or this Night*] and for evermore. *Amen.*

An EVENING PRAYER for a Servant.

[By the same Bishop.]

MOST gracious God, who by thy wise Providence hast appointed to Mankind their several Stations and Offices in this Life, I acknowledge thy Wisdom and Goodness in *this*, and *all other* thy Dispensations; desiring in all Things to pay a ready and chearful Submission to thy holy Will.

To this End, endue me with such a Spirit of Humility, Patience and Contentment, as is suitable to the Condition in which *thy Providence* hath placed me.

Bless me with Health of Body, and Comfort of Mind, that I may perform the Offices which belong to me with Chearfulness and Resignation; doing my Duty, as unto *Thee*, and not only unto *Men*; and resting on thy gracious *Promises*, for a Reward of my Labour, and Obedience in this Life.

And since, through the Frailty of my Nature, and the manifold Temptations which I daily meet with, I am often offending; I pray Thee to forgive me all the Transgressions of my Duty, whether in Thought, Word, or Deed, [thro' thy Son Jesus Christ, who came into the World to save Sinners, and offer Pardon and Peace to every true Penitent:] Especially forgive me the Sins and Failings of the past Day, and enable me by thy Holy Spirit to avoid them for the Time to come, and to be ever growing in the Graces and Virtues of the Christian Life, as long as thou shalt be pleased to continue me in this World.

I thank Thee for thy *constant Care* over me, amidst all the Changes of this mortal Life; and in particular for thy Preservation of me throughout the *past Day*; and I beseech Thee to continue thy gracious Protection to me *this Night*, that I may enjoy such quiet and refreshing Sleep, as may fit me for the Duties of the following Day.

All which I beg of Thee, in the *Name*, and for the *Merits* of thy Son Jesus Christ, my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c.

On

On lying down in Bed think on these Words.

I will lay me down in Peace, and take my Rest, for it is thou Lord only that makest me dwell in Safety.
Psalms iv. 9.

✎ It is an Observation of Dr *Watts's*, that "PARENTS and MASTERS, who take due Care of the Souls of their Children and Servants, should not only admonish and encourage them to pray to God in secret Morning and Evening, but should point out a proper Place for their Retirement.—This is easily done in small Families: And they should inquire whether their Children, or Servants, observe the Seasons of secret Prayer, or not."

A Prayer for a Person unavoidably detained from public Worship on a Sunday, either Morning or Evening.

S.

O Lord, the great and holy God, who fillest Heaven and Earth with thy Presence, look down, I beseech Thee; on thine unworthy Servant in my present Circumstances.

This is the Day, which thou hast appointed to be kept holy, by Rest from our Labours, and by the Acts of religious Worship. I hope thou knowest that "I love the Habitation of thy House," and should be glad and thankful to join with thy Worshipers there. I durst not presume to ask thy Favour in my present Absence from it, did I willingly forsake it: But, as by thy Providence I am necessarily and unavoidably detained from it, I intreat thy Favour with my whole Heart, and beg thine Assistance in my private Reading, Meditation and Prayers. May my Thoughts be serious and devout, and the Desire of my Soul be to Thee throughout this sacred Day.

Supply the Want of the public Means of Grace by the Teachings of thy Word, and Spirit. Bring to my Remembrance, and impress on my Heart, what I have formerly heard and read of the great Things of Religion and Salvation, that my Soul may be improved, and my Graces and good Dispositions may be confirmed and strengthened.

Command thy Blessing on all thy worshipping Servants; and on the Labours of thy Ministers, and let that Blessing rest on me also, who desire to join with them in Spirit now;
and

and hope *at length* to join the general Assembly in Heaven in ascribing, without Interruption, Glory and Honour, and Praise, to *Him*, who sitteth on the Throne of supreme Majesty and Dominion, and to the *Lamb*, forever and ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c.

A Prayer to be committed to Memory, and used by one who continues long awake in the Night.

S.

GREAT God, the *Darkness* hideth not from Thee, but the *Night* shineth as the *Day*: Thou art about my Path, and my Bed, and art acquainted with all my Ways, and Thoughts.

When thou keepest my Eyes waking I desire to lift them up to Thee, the Father of Lights; to remember Thee on my Bed, and to meditate on Thee in the Night-Watches: I beseech Thee to make thy Face shine on thy Servant, to gild the present dark Scene, to compose my Mind, and to banish every Fear from it: And may "*my Reins*" (my inward Thoughts, and Reflections on myself) "*instruct me in the Night Season,*" when others are asleep.

I desire to recollect, and acknowledge thy constant Care, and Goodness to me by Day and Night. I would now commune with my own Heart on my Bed, and renew my sincere Repentance for all my Sins; for which I might justly have been banished to eternal Darkness and Misery. I desire to look unto *Jesus*, the Sun of Righteousness, who endured the Cross for my Sake, and trust in *Him*, who is able to save to the uttermost. I solemnly give up myself to thy Service and Disposal, and desire humbly to acquiesce in every painful, and disagreeable Circumstance.

Support me under every Burden, and Infirmary: When I walk in Darkness be thou a Light about me: Graciously animate and comfort me by the Views of that better World, where there is no Night, nor Darkness; but the Lord shall be the everlasting Light of his Servants, and the Days of their Mourning shall be ended.—These Blessings

Blessings I ask in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.—The Grace of our Lord, &c.

A short Prayer on going a Journey, to be united with any of the Morning Prayers. —S.

I Commit myself, O Lord, to thy Protection, as I am now going a Journey, and humbly pray, that I may be kept from every Evil to which I may be exposed, especially from the Evil of Sin—that I may preserve a Sense of God and Religion on my Mind in all Places and Companies, and take every Opportunity of performing religious Duties, particularly on thy holy Day; and that I may return to my Habitation and Friends in Safety and Comfort, and find no Evil hath come nigh them, or my Dwelling.

A Thanksgiving for a safe Return from a Journey, to be united with any of the Evening Prayers. —S.

I Thank Thee, thou Almighty Guardian, for thy providential Care over me in my late Journey; that my Life and Limbs have been preserved; and that I am returned in Safety. I bless thee that I see the Faces of my Relations and Friends again, and that no Evil hath come nigh them or my Dwelling during my Absence. I desire to retain a Sense of this thy Goodness on my Heart, and to shew forth thy Praise in my Life and Conversation.

N. B. In Case of Accidents a suitable Alteration must be made.

AN INTRODUCTORY PRAYER.

Which may be used before public Worship in Church; or before private Worship at Home. —S.

GIVE me, O Lord, a deep Reverence of thy Presence; and grant me the important Aid of thy Holy Spirit to help my Infirmities, that, in every Attendance on thy Worship, I may aim at thy Glory, and obtain thy Blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A CONCLUDING PRAYER.

Which may be used after public, or private Worship. —S.

PARDON, O Lord, the Coldness of my Devotion, and the Wanderings of my Thoughts; graciously accept

accept my imperfect Service; and enable me to grow wiser and better by every Attendance on thy Worship, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Concerning G R A C E at M E A L S.

S.

Bishop Gibson * has observed, that "there is a *Kind of Family Devotion*, which is attended with no Manner of Difficulty, and the *Neglect* of which admits of no Excuse; that is begging of God a *Blessing* on our Meals before we sit down, and *thanking* him for his Goodness and Bounty, when we rise from them. This is what is commonly called *Grace before, and after Meat*.—A Practice so easy, and withal so useful and so natural, that the *Families*, in which it is not kept up, seem to have no Concern to maintain even a *Face of Religion*."—"Many in this present Age," says Bishop Wilfon, "go to their Meals as Beasts to their Fodder, without any Thoughts of God; and others say *Grace* after so slight and negligent a Manner, as makes it as *sinful*, as the Omission."—That the most ignorant therefore may not want proper Words for this Purpose, I shall add the following short Forms.

G R A C E before M E A T.

BLESS, O Lord, these thy good Creatures to our Use, and by them fit us for thy Service, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

G R A C E after M E A T.

ACCEPT our Thanks, O Lord, for these, and all thy other Mercies; and may we shew our Gratitude by our Lives, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

If He, who asks the Blessing of Almighty God, or returns the Thanks to Him, in the Name of the rest, should presume to do it in an irreverent Manner, the Grace should be repeated in our own Minds, as if nothing had passed at Table.

Concerning

* See his *Sinfulness of neglecting and profaning the Lord's-Day* (Price Three Half-pence) a very useful little Tract for the well-disposed to give away.

Concerning EJACULATIONS. S.

We should accustom ourselves to ejaculatory Prayers. "For which Purpose," says Mr. Nelson, "neither a Church nor a Closet are wanted, as this Sort of Devotion may be exercised at any Time, at any Employment, nay even in Conversation." * Pious *Ejaculations*, or *sudden* Petitions are very useful, as the *best Means* of guarding against the first Assaults of Temptations, and of keeping up constant Communion with God. Every Sentence of the Lord's Prayer may be considered, and used, as a *distinct* Ejaculation, as may every Petition, or Thanksgiving in the Bible, (or in any Prayer) if it suits our particular Case. — We should endeavour therefore to read the Word of God carefully, and repeatedly; and then we shall never want suitable *Ejaculations*, never be at a Loss for Expressions to carry on a Correspondence with Heaven, — in Cases of *Surprise*, or imminent *Danger*, where there can be no Time for Premeditation, NATURE directs every Man (even the most profligate) to utter *sudden Ejaculations*, such as "The Lord have Mercy upon me! —" "Lord, help me!" and the like.

Concerning SELF-EXAMINATION. S.

I would recommend it to those, who use these Prayers, that, *before* their EVENING DEVOTION, they spend a few Minutes IN EXAMINING themselves by the Prayer, which they used *in the Morning*, and seriously inquire how far their Temper and Conduct through the Day have been agreeable to the Petitions offered, and the Profession they made of Gratitude and Devotedness to God in the Morning? how far they have *really* endeavoured to *be*, and *do* that, which they prayed that God would *enable* them to *be*, and *do*. — Without such a daily *Endeavour* their Prayers are Formality, Insincerity, and an Abomination to the Lord.

A short

* In NELSON's valuable little Book, (Price 2s. 6d.) intitled *The Practice of true Devotion*, in Relation to the *End*, as well as the *Means* of Religion, the *Use of Ejaculations* is particularly shewn and exemplified. See Page 177 of the Sixteenth Edition.

A short Form of SELF-EXAMINATION.

DUTY to GOD.

1. **D**O I believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost? and does such Belief influence my Heart and Life?
2. Have I omitted or carelessly performed my religious Duties? Or have I forgotten God in the Intervals of them?
3. What Sins have I this Day committed in Thought, Word, or Deed? Have I endeavoured to keep up a Sense of God's Presence and Providence all the Day long; to approve myself in his Sight, and promote his Glory in all my Actions?

DUTY to NEIGHBOURS.

1. Have I in any Respect injured my Neighbour in Body, Property, or Character?
2. Am I desirous of his Welfare, both spiritual and temporal? And, if I have injured him, am I desirous of making him Reparation, as far as in my Power?
3. Do I sincerely forgive all Injuries received from him, as I humbly hope that God thro' Christ will forgive me?

DUTY to OURSELVES.

1. Do I strive to subdue all my irregular Desires, and evil Affections?
2. Am I leading a sober, righteous, and godly Life? Or am I not?
3. Am I more intent on securing my eternal Happiness, than on any of the Pursuits, or Advantages of this World? And am I now in that State, in which I would chuse to be found at the Approach of Death?

At the Time of SELF-EXAMINATION more particularly (tho' not at that Time only) it may be very proper to meditate on the following Passage from Bishop Wilton's most useful Treatise, intitled, *The Knowledge and Practice of Christianity made easy to the meanest Capacities*. Every well-disposed Christian (says the good Bishop, Page 243, of the Eleventh Edition) would do well to consider what a great deal of Good He may do by such Hints, as these following, to his Children, and his Servants.—The great Corruption of human Nature.—The Misery of Man, and his Danger through Sin.—The utter Impossibility of saving of ourselves without a Redeemer.—The great Love of God for his poor creatures, in sending his Son to redeem them;—That all our Hopes of Pardon

Pardon and Happiness are from God's Mercy through Christ our Saviour. —That, as ever we hope for Happiness, we must live according to his Doctrine and Example; endeavouring to grow every Day better, without ascribing any Thing to ourselves, but all to the Grace of God: Which Grace is sufficient to enable us to overcome all the Difficulties we meet with.—If we add to these the *Certainty* of a future Life, and a future Judgment;—and the Rewards and Punishments of another World, &c. such *Hints*, as these, seriously and often repeated, will, through the Grace of God, awaken the most careless and ignorant, and force them to ask, "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts xvi. 30.)

Short Remarks on devotional Writers, and the Necessity of Prayer. S.

As SOME, who may see this *little* Collection, may wish to be supplied with a *larger*, I thought it might be acceptable to mention, in that View, JENKS'S Devotions, (Price 3s.) Dr LELAND'S Forms of Devotion, (Price 2s.) And MERIVALE'S daily Devotions for the Closet, lately published; (Price 2s.) as useful perhaps as any Book of this Kind. There are excellent *Materials* in *all* these Writers; but is it not to be wished that their *Prayers* had been *more clearly divided*, and that the Order and Method had been marked in the Margin, *visible* to those of the meanest Capacity?—Bishop GIBSON, in his Prayers for Morning and Evening, (see Pages 13 and 16.) has carefully guarded against this *too general* Defect in Books of Devotion. The *above mentioned* are not only useful at the *stated* Seasons of Devotion, but may be *profitably read* at any Interval of Leisure, in the same Manner as *other* religious Books:—Or any *single* Petition, which particularly *suits* us, may be *meditated on*, and presented by Way of Ejaculation.—I would not, however, by the Mention of *these*, be supposed to dictate to any, whose Education may enable them to make a proper Choice, nor wish to exclude *any other* Book, which may be equally pious and edifying.

It cannot be *supposed*, that Persons, who use *these* (or any other Forms of Prayer) are under a Necessity of *confining* themselves to every *Expression*, and *Sentiment* in them. Any WORDS or SENTENCES may be *added*, *omitted*, or *changed*, (as they see Occasion) to *suit* their present State, their

OWN

own Judgment of Things, and the Circumstances of themselves, or Families: For it is impossible, that a *serious Christian* can present to God in *secret Prayer* all his Wants, all his Sorrows, all his dearest and most important Concerns, in a few general Sentences pre-composed by another.

Prayer is the FOUNDATION DUTY; and those who do not pray can have no Religion*. It does not invalidate this Assertion to say, that then great Numbers have no Religion. So much more the Pity. They may have some Virtue, be moral and useful Members of Society; but what Idea can be formed of Religion without Prayer? To forget God is the Character of the worst Men in Scripture. "It is impossible," says the judicious Mr. Orton, "that a Man should be good, who neglects secret Prayer; and next to impossible, that he should ever become so. The Neglect of Prayer shews, that he has no right Notions of GOD, no Sense of his Presence, no hearty Desires of his Mercy, no solid Hope of his Favour †." It is much to be wished, therefore, that those who have hitherto neglected daily to remember God in Prayer will firmly resolve no longer to neglect so important a Duty. And the only sure Way to keep up Devotion, both in secret, and in a Family, is to fix for that End the most convenient Hours both Morning and Evening, and resolutely to observe them. "When the Times of Prayer are thus settled," says Bishop Gibson, in his *Exhortation to Family Prayer*, "it will be accounted a Part of the Business

* Archbishop Sharp confirms this Assertion: "It is impossible," says he, "for any Man to be good, who lives without constant Prayer. —Whoever is good at the present, yet if he disuse himself in this point, he will not long continue good. Whoever makes a Conscience of praying frequently and heartily, and continues to do so, tho' he cannot presently be said to be a good Man, yet it is impossible for Him long to continue bad: He will certainly at last get the Victory over his Lusts, and evil Habits.

Archbishop Sharp's *Persuasive to Prayer*,
Vol. I of his Works, in 12mo.

† See Orton's excellent Discourses on secret, and Family Worship, and religious Observation of the Lord's Day; (Page 37 of the second Edition, lately published, Price 3s.) a Book which well deserves the frequent, and attentive Perusal of every serious Christian.

"Business of the Day; and as the Neglect of it occasions
 "an habitual Forgetfulness of God, and the Things of
 "another Life, so the daily Practice of it (if it is not
 "suffered to dwindle into a mere lifeless Form) keeps
 "up in Families a Face and Spirit of Religion, and is
 "the best Means that Fathers and Mothers, Masters and
 "Mistresses can use, to preserve in themselves, their
 "Children and Servants, such a religious and heavenly
 "Frame of Mind, as becomes a Society of Christians.
 "The daily Exercise of Devotion," says the same Bishop
 "in his little Treatise on the Sinfulness of profaning the Lord
 "Day," keeps the Soul in an habitual Preparation to move
 "towards Heaven, and by this Exercise, the Thoughts are
 "more easily disentangled from our worldly Cares and
 "Diversions, and more readily framed to attend the
 "Work at the proper Seasons of Devotion, whether in pub-
 "lic, or in private."

As these Prayers may very properly be read within the
 Space of a few Minutes, no Objection will lie against
 them on Account of their Length, or of the Time re-
 quired to make Use of them: "But," says an anonymous
 Writer, "where the Worship of God is not inwardly ap-
 proved, the shortest Prayer will be counted a Wearing
 "And even when it is approved, such an Approbation will
 "scarcely be lasting, except those, who call themselves
 "Christians, would keep more at Home, in their own
 "Families, and engage less in public Diversions and En-
 "ertainments, which are the great Reproach of our Na-
 "tion, and the Ruin of the rising Generation."

F I N I S.

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